

## Guided Notes Middle Ages

### Feudalism and the Manor System

- The years between the ancient or classical times and modern times
- Between 500 A. D. and 1500 A. D.
- Also called Medieval Period

#### Collapse of Rome

- For centuries the Roman Empire had kept order and stability in Europe
- The Roman empire spread culture, language and Christianity across Europe
- The Fall of Rome was due to:
  - Break Empire into 2 parts
  - Economic Collapse
  - Invasion from the North
  - Spread of disease
  - Poor leadership
  - Social problems

#### Small Kingdom again rule

- People moved into country-side
- Small kingdoms developed
- Many Germanic tribes invaded
- Kingdoms went to war with each other

- Trade stopped with the Mediterranean area
- The invading groups did not read and write

### Charlemagne unites Europe 768

- The people of Gaul had a leader named Charlemagne
- His people were called Franks
- Charlemagne Unified Europe for 50 years
  - Spread Christian religion
  - Issued money to improve the economy
  - After his death his sons took over and Europe weakened because of invasions especially from groups like the Vikings
  - Established schools
  - Created libraries

### Vikings

- Came from northern Europe
- Skilled warriors and tough warriors
- Attacked Europe for 300 years
- Reopened trade routes to the Mediterranean

### After the Attacks by Vikings

- People needed a new system for meeting their military, political, and economic needs
- This system was FEUDALISM- a system of power and economic relations
  - Land ( called a fief) owned by kings or lords, held by vassals and worked by serfs

## The Manor System

- System of Economic and political life at a local level
- A manor was a large estate that included a large house, farms, fields, pastures, and often a small village
- The Manor house is where the lord or vassal lived
- The manor needed to be self-sufficient
- The land was called a fief

## Roles in a Manor

- Noblewoman - managed the household
- Knights - protected the manor
- Peasants - farmers or laborers also called serfs
- Serfs - they could save money and buy freedom

Clergy - members of the church

priests

nuns